



The Insider

www.senate.mi.gov/switalski

Inside State Politics with State Senator Mickey Switalski Senate District 10

August 31, 2006

Welcome to the electronic version of *The Insider*. If you would like to contact me, please feel free to e-mail me at senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov or call me at my Roseville or Lansing office. You can also meet me in person during my constituent hours, coming to a library near you. Call my office and make an appointment or just walk in. See schedule for details.

Mickey's Blog: Tammy Just 1971-2006

It is with sadness that I acknowledge the passing of Tammy Just, aged 35, of Roseville. Tammy died of cancer and leaves behind young daughters Ashley and Kristin, and her husband Scott.

I first met Tammy eight years ago when I began coaching in the Roseville Youth Soccer under-6 league. Tammy was tall, thin, with a shocking mane of blond hair, and was very pretty. My son Liam and I had formed the *Yellowsnakes Football Club*, and we acquired the rights to Tammy's daughter Ashley Just by random assignment from the league office.

What good fortune!

From the beginning, little Ashley was cute, fast, well-behaved and a hard worker. Her cousin Fred Reinke was also on the team, and played decently in goal when he wasn't blowing the wisps off dandelions. Ashley was very athletic, aggressive, and could score goals. And she brought with her Tammy and Scott, who were as supportive a parents as you could find.

Tammy immediately volunteered to bring juice and snacks to the first game, and organized all the other parents on a schedule to cover the rest of the season. She brought her kids to practice and stayed, and always played at the end of practice when we had a kid's versus parent's scrimmage. She did this even when she had to hold her younger daughter Kristin while playing. I will never forget her shrieking laughter as she miskicked the ball and fell down, which she did often. Tammy had a *joie de vivre*, an infectious joy for living that made her fun to be around. You could not meet a more helpful and positive person.

I coached Ashley for some eight years, and during the entire time she never had any front teeth. I used to call her Dracula girl, because her eye teeth looked like fangs without any front teeth next to them. Tammy and Scott were always helping with all the little things that go along with organizing a team, and the Yellowsnakes were very successful. We had several unbeaten seasons, but we also had years where we took our lumps. Tammy and Scott accepted the games for what they were, kids' soccer, and they were always positive whether we were winning or losing. They just wanted the kids to have fun.

Tammy's wake drew over 600 people and another 200 at the funeral service. It was obvious to everyone that this was a special person who was loved by many people, myself included. We will all miss her terribly. Scott is one of 13 kids, including my bank teller and one of my high school classmates. He and Ashley and Kristin will have lots of support. But Tammy will never be forgotten. She will live on in her daughters and in the memories of the many, many people whose lives she touched.

Tammy wasn't wealthy, and didn't live in a mansion or drive a big car. But she was rich in a wealth that money can't touch. She was a down to earth Roseville woman with a heart of gold. She was the kind of person that makes Roseville a great place to live. If you were lucky enough to live on her block or know her through school, or soccer, or karate or any of the other hundreds of things she was involved in, then she taught you what it meant to be part of a community.

The world is a little cloudier, a little less bright, without Tammy Just. We will all have to step it up to make up for her loss.

Requiescat in pace.

Mickey's TV Insider Show

Check out my TV Insider Show coming to a television station near you. Watch me interview local guests about politics, life, issues and concerns to our district.

Sterling Heights

Every Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 p.m.
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Utica

Every Wednesday at 9 a.m.
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Clinton Township

Last week of every month- Sat thru Thurs
(Comcast Channel 5/WOW Channel 10)

Roseville

Various Times
(Comcast Channel 18)

*Please note that Sterling Heights/Utica/Clinton Township will show the TV Insider Show on Comcast Channel 5 and Wide Open West Channel 10. Clinton Township will air the TV Insider Show at various times during the last week of every month. Roseville can see the TV Insider Show on Comcast Channel 18.

Coffee Hours

*Since my District Office is in Roseville, I do not have set coffee hours in Roseville. However, I encourage you to visit the Roseville office. We even have a coffee pot. Everyone is welcome to attend the coffee hours and discuss their issues and concerns.

September 25 7-9 p.m. Location: Clinton-Macomb Public Library (35891 Gratiot) Clinton Township	October 2 7-9 p.m. Location: Sterling Heights Public Library (40255 Dodge Park) Sterling Heights
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Contact My Office

Website: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/switalski/>

Email: senmswitalski@senate.michigan.gov

Lansing Office

Senator Mickey Switalski
Senate District 10
410 Farnum
PO Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909

(866)303-0110 toll free
(517)373-7315
Fax-(517)373-3126

District Office

28311 Utica Road
Roseville, MI 48066

Monday through Friday
9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

(586)774-2430
Fax-(586)774-0012